

#E1-630
RJ

February 22, 2004

Surface Transportation Board
Case Control Unit
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20423-0001

Attn: Rini Ghosh

Re: Finance Docket No.34284

received
2/24/04

Dear Ms. Ghosh,

In response to the Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement, I am submitting the following to be considered in the formal scoping process.

I believe Vulcan's proposed quarry and proposed SGR rail line, regardless of where the railroad is constructed, are connected actions, and should be studied in the same Environmental Impact Statement. The study should include direct impacts and alternatives to both projects including my favorite solution... Forget about Quihi and go be a "good neighbor" in someone else's backyard !

My husband and I searched for four years to find our dream home and knew we had found it the minute we drove up the driveway to our house on the hill. Standing on the front porch we saw the first of many magnificent gifts that could only come from the Master. Sunsets so spectacular that after thirteen years we still awe at their beauty as if it was the first one. On a clear night the stars seem close enough to touch ! Perhaps the best thing of all is the expansion of our family over the years ... four generations now live on our family's 150 acres. The very reasons we chose to raise our children here are now threatened by Vulcans intent to "move in". We fear losing the irreplaceable quality of life that led us to be a part of Quihi. The heritage and history of this area will be forever altered. We worry about the impact a quarry will have on the health of our elderly parents as well as that of our young grandchildren. What impact will blasting over the Edwards Aquifer have on our wells and who will be responsible for monitoring that ?

Personally, I am most concerned about the railways crossing at grade level on FM 2676. This is a HUGE concern for commuters like my husband and me. We urge the EIS to protect us by doing a thorough study of the traffic using FM 2676 on a daily basis and understanding the need for providing grade separation at the outset of this project to be paid for by Vulcan. If, God forbid, this project is allowed to go forward, we urge you to do all you can to ensure the safety of our families and neighbors.

God Bless Quihi,

Bernard Wernette Cheri Wernette

Hooty and Cheri Wernette